Senate Research Committee
Minutes of meeting
Thursday, April 30, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. in S-205

Present: C. Bédard (Chair); J. Beaudoin (Secretary); B. Barua; E. Besso; D. Howes; L. Lerner; J. McGuire; D. Pushkar; R. Schmid; G. Vatistas.

Regrets: F. Haghighat; R. Hale; R. Roy.

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

2. **Approval of the Minutes**

The Minutes of March 19, 1998 were approved. (Dr. Schmid, Dr. Besso)

3. **Business Arising**

Matrix on eligibility of Faculty members to apply for and spend research funds (SRC-02-19-98-D2): the 04/24/98 final revision of the matrix was approved and is attached. The guidelines will go into effect on June 1, 1998.

Action: Dr. Besso will provide the Secretary with a mailing list of active researchers.

J. Beaudoin will circulate the guidelines as per March 19 minutes.

Consortium de l'Observatoire des sciences et des technologies (SRC-04-30-98-D1): this is a service which measures scientific output. Concordia has been invited to be a part of the consortium for a $5,000 fee. Other Quebec Universities have already joined. Dr. Lightstone has suggested that the data available from l'*Obsevatoire* could be used to assist with appraisals. Dr. Pushkar expressed a concern that granting agencies may start to use the information available from l'*Observatoire* in their deliberations. Professor Lerner suggested that Concordia should approach the group with a clear outline of our needs, and see if they can be met. She also noted that the data collected relates to science and technology, and is not really relevant to the needs of Fine Arts. Dr. Besso explained that there is already a list of the databases which are available to all consortium members, and that Fine Arts could make use of 2 or 3 of them. Dr. Bédard explained that since the G10

have expressed an initial interest in the possibilitites offered by l'*Observatoire*, and are currently having designs tailored to their needs, we should wait and see the results. The Chair will contact McGill in the near future to see if the benefits warrant our investing. At that time, the Office of Institutional Research will be contacted to coordinate negotiations with l'*Observatoire*.

"C" Policy revisions (overhead on non-SIRU funded awards) and internal communication plan (SRC-04-30-98-D2): The committee was reminded that the Quebec government presently pays universities an additional 15% of all external funding received, provided the funding comes from SIRU accredited agencies. However, CREPUQ agreed to a policy in 1994-95 whereby universities would charge 15% (off the top) to all research grants awarded if they were <u>not</u> accredited by SIRU. Concordia's implementation date for the policy was October 1, 1995. To date, there has been no disbursement, and Dr. Besso stated that Financial Services is ready to start the process. The agreed upon policy at Concordia was that 50% of the funds would go to the University's operating budget, and 50% to the Faculty's infrastructure funds. Dr. Besso proposed a change, that 50% would go to the University's operating budget, and that 30% would go to the researcher's Department, and 20% would go to the researcher.

Adoption: The policy amendment is adopted as per consensus of the Senate Research Committee membership.

Action: ORS will widely disseminate to the community the revised policies regarding overhead charges, along with an explanatory memo highlighting the key items.

Dr. Howes expressed his concern regarding a freeze of overhead accounts which had been imposed on the departments in the Faculty of Arts and Science. Drs. Pushkar and Schmid recalled the occurrence, stating however that their departments had been successful in lifting the freeze. Professor Lerner inquired if Faculties had the authority to freeze overhead funds once they had been disbursed to the departments. In recognition of the fact that the Associate Dean from the Faculty of Arts and Science was unable to attend this meeting, it was suggested that the discussion should be terminated, and questions be addressed at the next meeting. It was also agreed that without supporting documentation and a clear sequencing of events, further discussions would not be productive.

4. **Chair's Report:**

University Research Awards: the lectures will be given by the Fellows in the Fall of 1998. The budget for the awards and for the lectures was not clearly allocated in 1998, which created some minor problems; however, the costs associated with the award have now been written into the University's budget, with funds coming off the top from the frais indirect received by the University from Quebec every year. The costs of the events and the awards are not to exceed 1% of the total revenue received from the frais indirect.

Institutional Research and Research Training Development Plan: Members were reminded that Quebec will require institutional research plans by May 27, 1998. Dr. Bédard is drafting the plan, which will be finalised by the May 27 Quebec deadline.

C.F.I.: four applications were sent to Quebec for the New Opportunities competition. The next deadline is May 27. Concordia will be submitting six more applications, three to the total project cost under $350,000 category, and three to the over $350,000 category. We are also participants on three regional/national applications from other Quebec universities.

5. **Report from the Director, Office of Research Services:**

- The grant results from the major agencies have been reported, and Concordia's success rate is generally improved over last year. In comparisons with national averages, Concordia is generally above the success rates in the rest of the country. The complete results will be reported in the Awards Newsletter.

- NSERC has decided the issue of whether students should be paid stipends versus salaries when paid from a research grant will be decided internally at individual universities. Concordia will be required to draft a policy on this issue.

- NSERC has announced that there will now be a two year "tax holiday" for foreign postdocs.

- The CTTM Business plan has now been completed.

- There has been a negotiated grant with Mechtronix in the amount of $250,000 over the next five years.

- The position of Industrial Liaison Officer in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science has been posted.

- The two vacant Grants Assistant positions in ORS have been filled by Melissa Bahula and Georgia Michalakopoulos.

6. **Question period**

There were no questions.

7. **Other Business**

Revision to University Research Awards process **(SRC-04-30-98-D3)**

The item was tabled to the next meeting.

8. **For information**

FRDP committee manual **(SRC-04-30-98-D4)**

The item was tabled to the next meeting.

9. The next meeting will be Thursday, May 28, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. in room S-205.

10. Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.